her husband some property -about \$800 a year, it is estimated, as money now is-and was, while he lived, a faithful, self-sacri-fieing wife, and until her own death a devoted mother, and in all ways a sweet, gentle, lovable woman. She had much to endure. She endured it divinely, and there can be no doubt that the instinctive nobility of Shakspeare's nature was his by inberitance chiefly from his mother. May be she could not write. I can recall no statement except Ingersoll's touching that point, but if she could not, since two cent-uries later it was yet regarded as a cause of reproach for a "person of quality" to be able to spell well, we may possibly, without too great violence to our sensibility, pardon Mary Shakspeare the lack of the one accomplishment.

THE FAMILY RECORD.

The name Shakspeare, variously spelled, was known in the middle counties for two centuries or so before William's time. His own line cannot, however, be with certainty now traced further back than to his grandfather, who was a prosperous farmer; though it could be in his day, probably, since his father, John, applied to the Heralds' College for permission to wear a coat of arms, founding his request upon services rendered by certain of his ancestors to a former king. Knight, indeed, makes the ancestor in question John's great grandfather; but Knight has labored so strenuously to explain away the odium from cer-tain incidents of William's life from which the odium cannot be explained away, that one hesitates to follow him with confidence anywhere. He cites records that should be beyond question as to this, however. According to him, two grants of arms were conferred -one in 1569, the other in 1596. In this he is, doubtless, wrong. It appears, rather, that the first application was not pressed, for the reason, it is surmised, that John's circumstances were so far embarrassed that he could not pay the charges; and that later, when William had grown prosperous, it was renewed, at his instance. The established fact is that John Shakspeare was granted the use of a coat of arms by the College of Heralds because of services rendered the state by his ancestors; and, therefore, the family stock of William Shakspeare, on his father's side, could not have been mean.

A great deal has been written about John Shakspeare. Briefly, he was a capable, ambitious, prosperous man of affairs, quite at one with the lighter fellows, the "sport-ing men" of the town, twenty or more years there in Stratford. He held every office the people could give him, from that of ale-taster up to the mayoralty; and was, it is clear, one of the most prominent men of Stratford. So much is known, and then John goes into partial eclipse, or into well nigh total. Things went against him; he seems to have had too many things in hand, some of which must have needed more attention than he could give them. He needed money; put mortgages on his property, piece after piece, was in debt and dodged the bailiff. That is the reason he kept away from church; the bailiff was lying in wait around there for him; which makes it not quite as "good" for John as Ingersoll would have it. It would seem that he lived for some years a sort of shab-by-genteel artful-dodger existence, unhappy, shame-faced, well nigh disreputable, if

There is another view that makes it that he simply lived on his farm outside of Stratford during this period, and was merely careless about the little things pertaining to his interests in the town, but it appears to have no better foundation than the tenderness of charity, while there are some scraps of records which make the other theory more than probable. A WOMAN AMONG WOMEN.

This period it was that brought out in full play the transcendent nobility of Mary Shakspeare's character. The slow, merciless accumulation of miseries and humilistions-no need to dwell upon it. Think of it for yourself "for three or four months," rather than of those "eyes that do mislead the morn," and see what your deduction is regarding its influence on the formation of her son William's estimation of the womanly character. He was then just at that age when impressions received re-main as data from which to reason as long as one lives. The son was Shakspeare; he watched day after day the unportrayable beauty of the fortitude, the patience, the self-sacrificing love of his mother; he had that mother's bright, intense, sensitive spirit that would enable him to see and apprehend all the inner miseries of their circumstances for her, and feel the degradation of them as the sting of scorpions.

Looking aget, studying it all a little, one needs but a moderately discerning spirit to find in the person of Mary Shakspeare the model of the devoutly wise Portia, the faultless Imogen, the brilliant, clastic Beatrice, the tender-hearted, sprightly Rosalind, the modestly innocent Miranda, the broken-hearted Ophelia. Sitting in the dark, alone, with shut eyes, you cannot fail to see it, without reading between the

lines, either. That was bad enough for flame-souled William but yet came more and worse. The Hathweys (Hathaways) lived near-by, and one day William married Anne, eight years his senior, he being in his eighteenth year, under compulsion. This is one thing that Knight tries to explain away. but there are records that make it quite beyond question as here stated, and very repulsive. About six months later their Susanna was born to them. William was dreadfully to blame, of course; yet, Dr. Quincy says that he does not like the notion of exhibiting this mature woman as the victim of this boy. It was a wretched marriage, followed by endless consequences, for it gave the world Shakspeare. Yet five years elapsed before he broke loose and went to London—the world's Shakspeare thenceforth, and no woman's.

Whether Shakspeare's greatness was his heritage from his father or from his mother is an interesting question which can never -it goes without saying-be a determined one. Colonel Ingersoil appears to be here a little dogmatic, and makes himself liable to the charge of coddling to the ladies. John Shakspeare was a strong man, energetic and capable, but lacking in just mental or moral balance, or may be in both. But genius is an off-balance more or less marked; and may it not be the case that the uncombined element in John Shakspeare's equipment that threw him off balance was the unidentified principle called genius, which, when tempered by the sensibility, morality and fortitude of Mary Arden, in the person of their son constituted the marvelous intellectual endowment we know as Shakspeare.

WILLIAM WAS NOT DIVINE. Colonel Ingersoil belauds Shakspeare beyond all reason, making him the entire chain of the Rockies and Cordilleras, all the others but foot-hills. He makes of him a demi-god, or a god, or even a bi-god. It might seem that he is proposing to himself to found a new religion upon his apotheosis of Shakspeare, with himself as another Paul. It seems to be a necessity of man's nature to worship something, to love something or some being superlatively; and Colonel Ingersoll, having all his life successfully resisted the allurements of all the other gods, ancient and modern, has in his old age erected one for himself-to which, indeed, he invites us, too—in the intellect-uality of Shakspeare. But Shakspeare was by no means the man Ingersoll makes him out. Shakspeare was a most lovable man. he was a great man, was greatest of all in some ways, undoubtedly; but others have been great as well as he; and it may be a question of circumstances as to what constitutes greatness-whether a snow-capped rocky is greater than the sunny hillock at its foot may depend upon whether one prefers an avalanche or an orange. All good, noble, beautiful things Shakspeare loved, but he also loved many that are bad, always bad, bad for all. He loved and practiced them. Charity suggests that circumstances here coerced him. Then he was not superior to circumstances, and other men have been. I have no wish to demean our Shakspeare; my love and admiration for him and his work are second to no man's; but we want to know him as he was, and Colonel Ingersoll was not always ingenuous in his treatment of his subject the other night. Shakspeare can stand the truth; it will bring him nearer and make him more a help to those who most need his help to know the truth, and therefore I think Mr. Ingersoll fell short when he failed to tell his he arers, the other night, that our honey-tongued Shakspeare, overmastered by circumstances, lived for twenty years or so in London an essentially victous life. It is not necessary to give here any detail. The facts certainly known regarding him at this time are not many. indeed, but some are certainly known, and more are known regarding his associates; and assuredly no one can read with a dis-cerning eye of the dirty life of London at that time, and of the character of his asso-

and his friends as they lived their life in London town three centuries ago. Here is a clew, too, to the solution of the mystery of his indifference as to the future of his work, which may even make it conceivable that he would gladly have discovered it altogether. He turned to the stage in the first place, after years of humiliating dependence on the bounty of gruff yeoman papa Hathaway, as a means of escape from his embarrassments, financial and other. He wanted relief from his miseries, from—can it be doubted?—from his Anne. He had waited long and endured much, as had Anne; nothing else promised help or seemed possible to him; his friend Burbage made a way for him to immediate employment; he knew other actors, with whom, as the bright son of the jolly John Shakspeare who had formerly been well-disposed towards them when they passed through or stopped in Stratford, he was a favorite; it was the big world of London beckoning a country lad out of his trouble—and he went. He pros-pered from the first, was shrewd, thrifty, had gone to make money, made money, grew rich for a Stratford man of that day.
But the stage was in bad repute, was
menial. The gentle mother's notions of
gentility were of her son's bone and blood. So it was a daily degradation, that actor's life. The immoralities of it outraged his innate delicacy and humiliated him still further. His father had now his coat-ofarms, he had all needed means, they might be of the gentry again. It became intolerable, he left London and the stage, went back to Stratford, reformed.

This was not great, but it was enormously human. Then Ben Johnson and another went down to Stratford to visit him. But he was reformed, his fiber relaxed, he could not take his bottles with the fellows fresh from the London taverns. He tried, however, overdid it, and a few days later-two or three-died. But others preserved the work that Shakspeare himself contemned, and now it is ours, as he is. We want to know it and him as they are and were. Only by so knowing them can we get all the benefit we should out of them. Colonel Ingersoll could not tell it all the other night, but he wasted time on Bacon. He should have given it all to Shakspeare; and if he refrained from telling us all he might have told us from motives of generosity or delicacy, then we may say again, regarding the one, that Shakspeare is great enough to stand the truth, and as to the other, as Professor Wostermanck has said, that "the concealment of the truth is the only indecorum O. W. SEARS. known to science." Indianapolis, Feb. 25.

OFFERINGS FROM THE POETS.

The Little Tunker Bonnet. A maiden came driving a sleek black mare Into the town, into the town; And the light wind lifted her raven hair In innocent ringlets hanging down
To the neck of her fleecy, lead-colored gown,
From under the puckered, silken crown Of her little Tunker bonnet.

She'd a red-rose lip and an eye of brown, And dimples rare, and dimples rare; But the lassies laughed as she rode in town, For the graceful gown that she wore with care Had never a flounce upon it, And they made remarks on her rustic air, And wondered what country hulk would dare Make love to that "queer old bonnet."

O merry town girls, you do not know, Acres are wide, acres are wide; And wheat and corn-fields lying a-row Are the Tunker's wealth and the Tunker's pride; And the farm and the houses on it, The cow for milk, and the horse to ride, Are gift and dower for the bonny bride

But the merchant beau in the dry-goods store Welcomed her in, welcomed her in: And the sweet little face with smiles ran o'er As the cunning purse of crocodile skin, With the clicking clasp upon it. She drew at each purchase, and from within Coaxed arguments that were there to win Sure grace for the Tunker bonnet.

That weareth the Tunker bonnet.

Then she mounted her buggy and drove away Through meadows sweet, through meadows

Where her graybeard father raked the hay By the Tunker church where the turnpikes meet, The church with no steeple on it. Said the merchant, musing, "Her style is neat, I'll join the Tunkers, raise beard and wheat, And win that little bonnet."

-Benjamin S. Parker, in Century Magazine. The Rival Minstrels.

Haroun al Raschid loved his harem's maids: He loved his gardens, with their winding shades; He loved to watch his crystal fountains play: He loved his horses, and his courtiers gay: He loved all royal sports that please a king, But most he loved to hear his minstrels sing.

Two rival singers to the Caliph's court. Who pleased him best, full well each minstrel Would be proclaimed the greater of the two. So well they pleased him that they found him To choose between them, for he loved them both.

and so it hap pened that his fame had brought

"Let all the nation judge," at length said he; "Who pleases best my people, pleases me.' Through all the laud the rival poets sung; Their names and music were on every tongue. Until at last they never reach a door Where fame had not sung all their songs before.

Ben Claf sang of deeds the Caliph wrought, The riches and the splendors of his court; The mighty warriors every nation boasts. And armies vanquished by the prophet's hosts; How Islam's valor was beloved, and feared; And when he finished, listening thousands cheered.

Mustapha's songs were all of simpler things. Forgotten was the pride of earthly kings. He sang to them of home, and truth, and love: How Allah watched his children from above. Close to their hearts the poet's music crept; And when he finished, all the people wept.

For though Ben Olaf charmed them with his arts. It was Mustapha's songs that reached their

> -James G. Burnett, in Harper's Magazine. Signs of Spring. Sound of gusty, driving rain, When we wake at midnight hour; Ice-tipp'd branches on the pane

Beating music to the show'r. Crows that caw from steaming woods. Robins piping in the glades, Buds that from their winter hoods Peep and blush like pretty maids.

Grateful odors of damp earth, Boist'rous glee of muddy rills, Shouting, brawling, in their mirth, Down the bare flanks of the hills.

Here and there a crocus' head Thrusting up to dare the cold, While its sisters, warm in bed, Stir their coverlids of mold.

Spring is coming; spring is near; She is whispered in the air. Soon the blithe nymph will be here Shaking blossoms from her hair. -James Buckham, in Harper's Bazar.

"When Burbadge Played." When Burbadge played the stage was bare; Of fount and temple, tower and stair; Two backswords eked a battle out, Two supers made a rabble rout: The throne of Denmark was a chair!

And yet, no less, the audience there Thrilled through all changes of despair, Hope, Anger, Fear, Delight and Doubt,

When Burbadge played! This is the actor's gift-to share All moods, all passions, per to care One whit for scene, so he without Can lead men's minds the roundabout, Stirred as of old those bearers were When Burbadge played!

-Austin Dobson. Home-Made Maxims, Who sacrifices self for others' good Has something better far than noble blood.

Hope gives more happiness than wealth can bring: The rich in hope are rich in everything. He who delights in doing kindly deeds

Has risen above the plane of codes and creeds. -New York Press. Ye Unreasonable Male Biped.

New York Weekly. Husband (compelled to write a hurried business letter at home - Where in creation is the ink? Wife-In the front left-hand corner of my work-basket. That's on the corner of

the dressing-table in the north room up stairs. "Where's the paper?" "I am just out, but I believe the girl has

some. I'll see.'

sunlight of to-day. William Shakspeare | won't write a dozen lines."

"Where are the pens! "Somebody stepped on the pen last week and I forgot to get another, but I'll send over to Mrs. Makeshift's and see if she has one. She is always borrowing mine." "Huh! Any one might think no one in this house ever wrote a letter." "Nonsense! There isn't a more volumin-ous correspondent anywhere than I am. You men can never wait a minute for anyciates and then deductively reflect upon it thing. I'll warrant after I've half killed all without seeing as in the glare of the myself getting all the things together you

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ving and removing discolorations from the cuticle, and bleaching and brightening the complexion. In experimenting in the laundry with a new bleach it was discovered that all spots, freckles, tan and other discovered that an spots, freches, tan and other discolorations were quickly removed from the hands and arms without the slightest injury to the skin. The discovery was submitted to experienced Dermatologists and Physicians who prepared for us the formula of the marvelous Derma-Royale. NEVER WAS ANYTHING LIKE IT. It is perfectly harm-less and so simple a child can use it. Apply at night tien will surprise and delight you. It quickly dissolves and removes the worst forms of meth-patches, brown or liver spots, freckles, black-heads, blotches, sallowness, redness, tan and every discoloration of the cuticle. One bottle completely removes and cures the most aggravated cases and thoroughly clears and whitens the complexion. It has never failed—it cannot rail. It is highly recommended by Physicians and its sure results warrant us in offering \$500 REWARD.—To assure the public of its Five Hundred Dollars CASH, for any case of mothpatches, brown spots, liver spots, black-heads, ugly or muddy skin, unnatural redness, freckles, tan or any other cutaneous discolorations, (excepting birthmarks, scars, and those of a scrofulous nature) that Derma-Royale will not quickly remove and cure. We also agree to forfeit Five Hundred Dollars to any person whose skin can be injured in the slightest possible

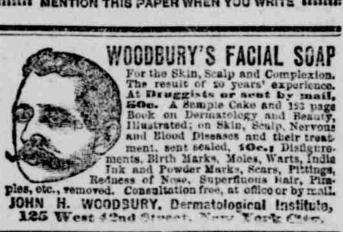
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